

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 204077

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/CEN/CR:MMBOVA

APPROVED BY: ARA/CEN - DAVID LAZAR

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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FOR ROBERT ROSENSTOCK USUN LEGAL DIVISION

FOL SAN JOSE 3630 SENT ACTION SECSTATE AUG 26; REPEATED TO YOU
QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 3630

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, SOPN, CS

SUBJECT: "NATIONAL INQUIRER" ATTRIBUTES VESCO

STORY TO AMBASSADOR

1. EMBASSY PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER TOOK A LONG DISTANCE
CALL MORNING AUGUST 26 FROM "NATIONAL INQUIRER"
REPORTER JEFF NEWMAN WHO ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION OF
THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REGARDING ROBERT VESCO:
THAT VESCO WAS "INTERESTED IN GIVING HIMSELF UP" AND
RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES; THAT VESCO'S "WIFE
WAS IN TEARS" AND THE CHILDREN WERE UNHAPPY BECAUSE
THEY ARE "OSTRACIZED" BY OTHERS AND BECAUSE OF FEARS OVER
POSSIBLE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS AGAINST THE VESCOS;
THAT VARIOUS VESCO COMPANIES ARE NEGOTIATING WITH USG;
THAT VESCO IS GOING TO ENTER INTO PLEA BARGAINING AND
HOPES TO DRAW A ONE-TWO YEAR SENTENCE ONLY.

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PAGE 02 STATE 204077

2. NEWMAN TOLD PAO THAT HIS SOURCE RECEIVED THE

ABOVE INFORMATION FROM AMBASSADOR TODMAN IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION. NEWMAN THEN ASKED "IF THERE WAS A STORY HERE FOR THE "INQUIRER," PAO EMPHATICALLY DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION, ALSO STRONGLY DENIED THAT THE AMBASSADOR HAD MADE ANY STATEMENT TO ANYONE SUCH AS ABOVE. NEWMAN ASKED IF OFFICER COULD CHECK WITH AMBASSADOR ANYWAY AND HE AGREED TO DO SO. NEWMAN ALSO SAID HE HAD NO INTENTION OF USING AMBASSADOR'S NAME, NOR IN ANY WAY ATTRIBUTE THE STORY TO US IF HE DECIDE TO RUN IT.

3. SINCE CHECKING WITH AMBASSADOR, PAO IS TRYING TO GET BACK TO NEWMAN AGAIN TO DENY CATEGORICALLY THAT HE OR EMBASSY HAS MADE ANY COMMENTS ALONG THESE LINES TO ANYONE. IF PRESSED, WE WILL SUGGEST THAT "INQUIRER" CONTACT JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FOR ANY COMMENT. TODMAN UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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